



WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Where there is no vision, people perish." James Baldwin

Free

Alan Brisley

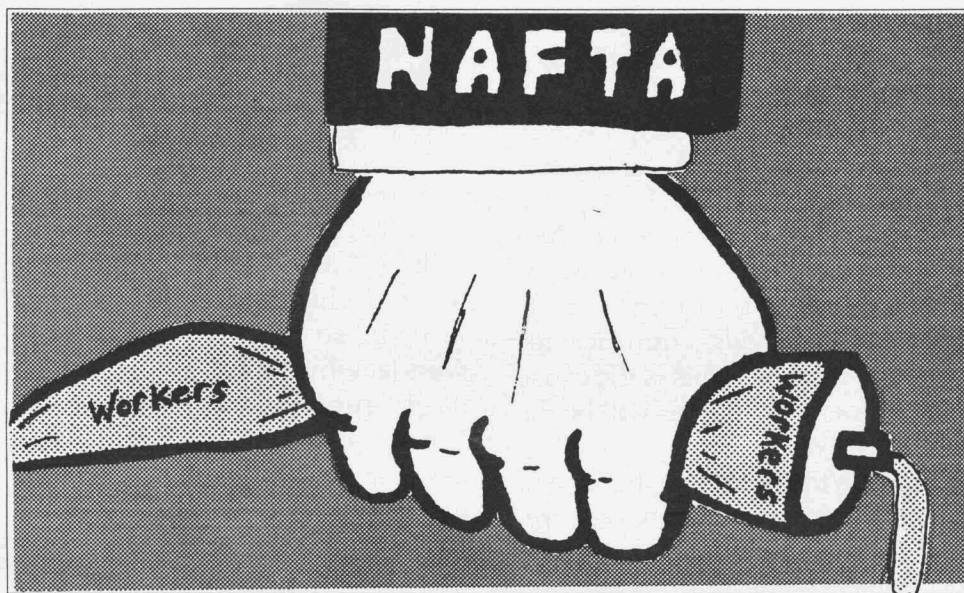
A group of activists has recently begun organizing a regional grassroots campaign against ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The group was born out of a sign-up list circulated among participants at the Environment, Labor and Social Justice Conference held at The Evergreen State College last November.

The fast growing NAFTA/GATT Justice Committee is working to organize a "mass mobilization of labor, environmental, church, social justice and community organizations." Their goal: to defeat NAFTA and any other trade agreement that undermines democracy and increases the exploitation of workers or the environment in Mexico, Canada or the United States.

Why NAFTA?

If NAFTA is ratified everyone will be hurt except the wealthy. Those already struggling the hardest to survive -- women, people of color and others -- will be effected first. Social programs will be hard hit by a reduced tax base as northern manufacturing capital moves south of the border at an increased rate. Under NAFTA, Mexico's industrial growth

New Group Mobilizes Against NAFTA



will only increase the exploitation and poverty of its workforce. Local, state and national laws could be overruled if determined to be "unfair trade barriers." Hundreds of thousands of high paying manufacturing jobs will be lost in the U.S. and Canada.

Because NAFTA threatens so many people and communities in so many ways it provides an opportunity to build much needed strategic

alliances between workers, environmentalists and community justice organizers in all three countries.

Local Action To Build Movement

The NAFTA/GATT Justice Committee is composed almost entirely of rank and file members of union locals and environmental, social justice and community groups. Its focus is on mobilizing from the

grassroots up.

Recognizing the need to expand its representation the group considers itself the "root of an organizing committee" and is actively making connections locally, nationally and internationally with other groups working to fight NAFTA. The group plans to use local actions to build toward an internationally coordinated statewide rally. The rally date will probably be in early May to

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Community Meeting Planned by Local Rainbow

WIP News Service

Three individuals of the local community will be honored with Rosa Parks Awards at the fourth Annual Community Meeting sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. The event is set for 1:00 pm, Saturday, February 13th, at the First Christian Church, 7th and Franklin in Olympia. In addition to this award presentation, a panel of speakers will present information about the North

Kirton who marched in Olympia's Gay Pride March in his National Guard uniform announcing his status as a gay in the military; Virginia Carhart for resisting and opposing sexual harassment at the Bulldog News stores; and the Urban Onion Restaurant Workers who stood up for their rights to collective bargaining.

The NAFTA panel will be first on the agenda and will feature Mariann Mann of the Mountaineers, Mike Freeman with the International

be invited to ask questions of the panelists and to participate in an Open Mike period. During the Open Mike, attendees will be offered time to present their issues of concern to the community.

Elected officials and Representatives of Thurston County have been invited not to speak but to listen to the community. Community organizations have also been invited to set up tables with materials and handouts. TCRC has worked to provide a voice for the community. *Works In Progress* and the Annual Community Meeting are their two major efforts toward this mission. In keeping with this effort, the Rainbow will honor one of its own with the "Keeping Hope Alive" Award, which is given to a TCRC member who has helped to keep the organization a vital, alive entity within the community.

The meeting will be followed by the serving of desserts. A five dollar donation is requested. For further information, please call Dan Taylor at 456-4773.

During the Open Mike, attendees will be offered time to present their issues of concern to the community.

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and an Open Mike period will be featured.

The TCRC will present the Rosa Parks Awards to individuals who put their livelihoods at risk to stand up for their rights and the rights of others. Honored will be Richard

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Peter Guzman, a Hispanic American, with Rebound. Mann will discuss the environmental aspects of NAFTA while Freeman and Guzman will focus on the US labor and Mexico labor criticisms of the agreement, respectively. Those who attend will

coincide with Clinton's expected introduction of NAFTA to Congress on its "fast track."

U.S. Representatives and Senators and President Clinton are the primary targets for public action. The group has also begun working to pass a Joint Memorial Resolution opposing NAFTA through the Washington State Legislature.

Organizers acknowledge that NAFTA is a difficult issue to attack. "It is hard to put your finger on NAFTA because it was negotiated in secret and is several thousand pages long. It seems far away, but we know it is going to hurt us. Look at what has happened with 500,000 jobs leaving Canada since the free trade agreement there. Look at what is happening to Mexican workers and their communities as U.S. corporations set up factories in Mexico's existing free trade zones. They're getting poorer and being poisoned by pollution."

A group of people concerned about NAFTA met recently in Olympia to begin the local organizing effort. For more information or to get involved call the NAFTA/GATT Justice Committee at 786-8950.

(See calendar of events back page)

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Letters



Poulos' Concern

Works In Progress News:

This is in response to your article by Solveig Torvick, January 1993.

Atom bombs are built for one reason only. That is to be used in warfare. Why is it just because Russia renounces so called Communism (it was a state owned industry, not run by workers) that the world is now safe from nuclear attack.. The United States and Russia still have enough atomic and hydrogen bombs to wipe out the world at least twice. This is not counting the smaller countries that are advancing toward a capitalist system. Iraq would have an atom bomb if left alone by Israel and the United States

Boyer's Perspective

To Works in Progress:

As a pagan and witch in the European folk tradition, I follow with interest the discussion on these pages and other community forums on the abuse of Native American religions. Strong objections have been made to the sale of sacred objects, ceremonies being held for money, and especially to white folks claiming to be medicine people. At times these objections seem to encompass any involvement whatsoever by white people in the spiritual traditions of this continent.

Much of this discussion concerns blatant violations and rip-offs of American Indian spirituality. I do not support expensive sweat lodge workshops or authors who are fake "Indians." I am not interested in purchasing native ritual objects or getting adopted into an Indian tribe.

My commitment is to wicca, the earth centered religion of my own heritage. Europe, too, has an ancient tradition of shamanic wisdom. Much of that knowledge was destroyed by Christianity, by the Inquisition and witch hunts, and by industrialism. I must rely heavily on intuition and creativity to fill the gaps where knowledge has been lost. As a child of many different European people, I must pick and choose among dozens of local traditions.

At the same time, I find that I am practicing earth religion on this continent, Turtle Island. The plants, animals, and spirits of this place are

Boycott Pays Off

Editors,

Julie Wittrock produces no evidence for her serious allegation that the October informational picket at St. Martin's Pavilion was "more interested in hurting the alumni scholarship fund, than in accomplishing farmworkers rights" because none exists.

Furthermore, Ms. Wittrock accuses the participants of the picket of unfairly targeting an event that featured Chateau St. Michelle Wines. She ignores the fact that our all-volunteer committee works long hours to educate the public and as many store and wine shop owners

by now.

Wars are caused by overproduction and threatened raw materials. Overproduction is caused by trade competition among countries for available markets. This is the cause of all modern wars. This will be the cause of WW III.

It is also unbelievable that one of the most toxic substances ever created by man went to Japan a few weeks ago, plutonium. One millionth of a gram of plutonium will give cancer. Yet Japan received a ton of this poison according to news reports. Japan is so blinded by profit that she forgets the horror of atomic warfare only 48 years ago.

Yours, Milton Poulos

as we can reach regarding the CSM Wine Boycott. I'm certain that many WIP people can attest to the fact that they have seen boycott supporters leafletting at scores of public events and in front of several different stores on many a cold evening.

These efforts are paying off. Three local restaurants have recently agreed to honor the boycott. One wine shop is now putting our boycott information for its customers to consider.

And Another Thing...

Sistren, Brethren et al.,

"What is the purpose of name-calling?" asks Sarah Light. In the letter to which she refers, I engaged in none, so I can't help her, but I wonder why she doesn't answer her own question. She refers to "Europeans" as "brutal murderers." What is the purpose of this name-calling?

"What does ridicule achieve?" In this case, **illumination**.

"There is power in naming," intones Light. Granted. There is also power in lying. That's why she does it. Back when all I had to go on was her "History Lesson" I knew she was ignorant and prejudiced, but quite possibly, for all I knew, sincere. Now I know better, I should say rather that I know worse. She is not even slightly interested in whether the specific atrocity accusations she announced or implied

I wish that more people, including Julie Wittrock would join our efforts so we could outreach to every grocery store, wine shop, and restaurant in the state.

Regarding the Alumni Scholarship Fund, many St. Martin's Scholarship supporters found alternative ways to donate to this fund rather than attend the Wine Tasting Festival. Others who attended the festival expressed their disapproval to the Alumni Association and chose to drink non-boycotted wines on the 24th. My thanks goes out to all of them.

Paul Ortiz

were true. If they have the "power to uplift" the downtrodden, they are better than true, they are **useful**.

Light typifies a combination, seemingly paradoxical, which I have come to see as characteristic: the marriage of moralism and lying. It is a familiar code: hypocrisy.

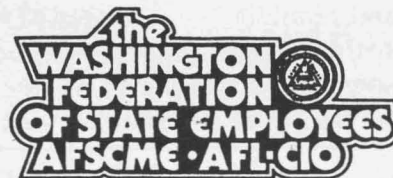
In an amazing rhetorical gambit, Light equates my correction of her bogus history of centuries ago with, say, the denial of the experience of a rape victim or Holocaust survivor. As if Sarah Light had ever been scalped for 60¢. There is a difference between personal experience and historical fiction -- to me, if not to her. Light has cast herself as Al Sharpton and the Indians (without their knowledge and consent) as a collective Tawana Brawley.

With Love,

Bob Black, Light-Bringer

"We have to face the uglies to admit our errors, and even if we repeat them, we ought not to excuse them."

-Pearl Bailey



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Mary Burbage, President

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Works In Progress, c/o TCRC, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Margot Boyer

Supreme Court Case Ruling Wins Back Benefits for Disabled Children

Sonya Bedillion

In the past, if you had a child with a disability and tried to apply for SSI benefits (Supplemental Security Income) and were turned down, there was no recourse for action; your family simply would have had to learn to shoulder the burden of an added medical expense.

For a minority of the people who

qualify for SSI benefits are automatically eligible to receive free health care through medicaid, even if the child is receiving a minimum of one dollar from SSI.

Children who were denied benefits from 1980 to 1990 can now have their cases reconsidered and may under a precedent set by the Sullivan v. Zebley case receive back payment. According to statistics over a million children qualify for SSI but more than half receive nothing.

To be eligible a child must have a condition that is severe enough to interfere with a child's ability to perform everyday activities that other children the same age can perform.

faced (and still face) this dilemma, becoming a member of the working poor or even becoming homeless was a possible outcome. The only question was how long it would take for their resources to be drained.

The truth is that since SSI's inception in 1974, half of all children that have applied for SSI benefits have been turned down. Along with this is the lack of knowledge of what SSI benefits encompass. Most do not realize that if their child is turned down, they do have the right to appeal. Because the process can be so overwhelming, most give up challenging the SSI, even though it is a program specifically designed to assist them. Also, children who are homeless can qualify for assistance; and a homeless child will receive the same amount as a child that has a home. The Social Security Administration will make arrangements for payment to those who do not have an address. Children who do

The Children's SSI Campaign is a program designed to see to it that the impact of the court case can be felt by families who would otherwise be unaware of their right to benefits. The campaign is dedicated to locating eligible families and in assisting them in the qualifying process.

To be eligible a child must have a condition that is severe enough to interfere with a child's ability to perform everyday activities that other children the same age can perform.

If you think yours or another's may qualify, contact your local Social Security Administration Office. (Olympia, Seattle, Tacoma, or Kitsap County)

Or call 1-800-772-1213.

If you are interested in learning more about the Children's SSI Campaign please write to: 1101 15th St., NW Suite 1212 Washington DC, 20005 or call 202-467-5730.

KAOS Asks Community Input on Use of Satellite

KAOS 89.3 FM will soon have access through the new satellite dish to a greatly enlarged resource for public affairs programs and other offerings produced across the nation. We are exploring how to use the programs available from the satellite to serve the community while responding to our loyal listening audience and maintaining our commitment to multi-culturalism, localism, and volunteerism. KAOS is seeking your help in assuring an appropriate balance between local and national programming. Take a moment to consider these questions and let KAOS know what you think.

1. As a listener, what priorities do you think should guide the selection of programming from the satellite?
2. What types of programs most interest you?
3. KAOS is planning initially to offer one half-hour, daily *Pacifica News*. What time of day would be most convenient for you to listen to *Pacifica News*?

Give us your input! Your comments will be most helpful if we have them by February 22.

Write to KAOS, Attention: Satellite Implementation Group, The Evergreen State College, CAB-301, Olympia, Washington 98505, or call 866 6000 extension 6897.

The Practice of Nonviolence - Personal Experiences

Anne Hall, Peace Activist

Sunday, February 21, 1993

3:00 - 5:00 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church

19th and South Capital

Free and open to the public

Anne Hall will discuss her experience with nonviolent direct action. She is on staff at University Baptist Church in Seattle. She has worked with Agape Community and Ground Zero in direct actions against the Trident Submarine and White Train. She has also worked on Church public sanctuary for refugees and war resisters. She is recently returned from the Middle East where she met with Israeli and Palestinian affiliates of Physicians for Social Responsibility. She will discuss recent nonviolent direct action campaigns to reform policy and witness for justice and peace.

Sponsored by Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation.
For more information 491-9093

Seattle Lesbian & Gay Chorus to Benefit Olympia AIDS Task Force

February 14

The hundred voice Seattle Lesbian & Gay Chorus, led by Dale McCurdy, will perform in its first Olympia Concert Sunday, February 14 at St. John's Episcopal Church on 20th and Capital Way. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Olympia AIDS Task Force. Call 352-2375 for more info.

Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

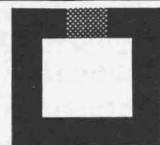
The following statement will become part of the **Editorial Policy** and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Al Zimmerman
Pat Holm	Dave Zink
Evelyn Montague	Jerome Johnson
Marie Smith	Zachary D. Lyons
Teresa Jennings	Marvin Saillard
Chris Russo	Dorothy Tassoni
Sylvia Smith	Carol Poole
Pat Tassoni	Greg Hohnholt

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (WordPerfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works in Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.



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TCRC Honors Race Unity in Action

WIP News Service

This year the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition presented Race Unity In Action the Coalition's Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. The award was the third annual award presented by TCRC



Dan Taylor is Co-Coordinator for the Rainbow.

photo by Kendra Jennings

to local community organizations for their efforts in keeping alive the dreams of Reverend King. The following is an excerpt from Dan Taylor's, Co-Coordinator for the Rainbow, presentation speech:

It is my honor to present our third annual award to Race Unity In Ac-

tion. Race Unity In Action is a grassroots organization that began in December 1989. It has the goal of promoting racial harmony through genuine social interaction and healing of racism through open and honest discussions. Its guiding principles are the oneness of humankind and investigation of truth.

During the past three years the group has organized workshops and public meetings, hosted a monthly potluck dinner called the "Friendly Supper Club", and provided a weekly forum to promote the healing of racism. A part of this weekly forum is a segment called "Missing Voices," during which a speaker from the community is invited to share their life experiences and thoughts on racial issues.

Accepting the award on behalf of Race Unity were Lonnie Locke, Dan Locke, Linda Dimitroff, and Stephan Dimitroff.

Lonnie announced that Race Unity's forthcoming project will be to conduct interviews among members of the community concerning their life experiences with racial issues.



photo by Kendra Jennings

Accepting the award on behalf of Race Unity were Lonnie Locke, Dan Locke, Linda Dimitroff, and Stephan Dimitroff.

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition 4th Annual Community Meeting

kNOw NAFTA

(North American Free Trade Agreement)

"NAFTA mean[s] weakened environmental regulations, public health-and-safety-standards, and labor protection laws."

Kristin Dawkins and William Carroll Muffitt,
The Progressive, January 1993

Speaker Panel

Environment

Mariann Mann, Mountaineers

U.S. Labor

Mike Freeman, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Mexico Labor

Peter Guzman, Rebound

February 13, 1993 1 P.M.

First Christian Church (7th & Franklin)

**TCRC Community and Rainbow Activists
Awards, Open Mike, Desserts**

For more information call 456-4773

I AGREE WITH THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Yes, I'm interested in joining the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

☐ Enclosed is: \$25; \$10 low-income.

☐ Yes, I want to be involved in Rainbow activities. Give me a call.

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(address) _____

(city) _____ (state) _____ (zip) _____

(work phone) _____ (home phone) _____

(issues of interest): _____

Send to: Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507. For information call 459-3625 or 456-4773.

Romani-Jewish Alliance Lecture

On Monday, Feb. 1st, at TESC, from 7-9 pm, in Lecture Hall #3, J. Morgan Ahern and Toby Sonneman of the Romani-Jewish Alliance will be speaking. Their talk will focus mainly on dispelling myths about people of Romani descent and exploring their largely unknown history.

The lecture will provide a much deeper understanding of the historical and present day issues for Roma. The speakers understand that most of us have little information concerning Romani issues, and so there will be a generous amount of time set aside for questions. The Romani-Jewish Alliance is dedicated to action and education to combat discrimination and human rights abuses towards Roma and Jews worldwide. The Alliance promotes cultural understanding and exchange between Roma and Jews.

This free lecture is sponsored by the Jewish Cultural Center of TESC. Call 866-6000 x6493 for more information.

Along the Color Line

Gay Rights and the Black Freedom Movement

Dr. Manning Marable

The battle for human equality and social justice knows no color boundaries. Black Americans and Latinos are of course all too familiar with the stinging darts of prejudice and bigotry. Yet across this country, the historic opponents of Black and Latino equality are sharpening their rhetorical knives against another minority group—lesbians and gay men.

For decades, homosexuals in the United States have experienced deeply-entrenched patterns and policies of discrimination, including: expulsion from the armed services; being fired from places of employment solely due to one's sexual orientation, rather than job performance; the denial of full legal rights for gay couples; being rejected from public accommodations; and the loss of renting apartments or dwellings.

Yet across this country, the historic opponents of Black and Latino equality are sharpening their rhetorical knives against another minority group—lesbians and gay men.

States such as Georgia passed so-called anti-sodomy laws targeting homosexuals. The rights guaranteed to all Americans under the Constitution were all too frequently denied to gays and lesbians.

However, beginning in the 1950s, lesbian and gay liberation groups came into being, calling for greater civil rights and political empowerment. In cities such as San Francisco and New York, gays created political associations, and quickly became a growing influence inside the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. During the past two decades, seven states and about 110 communities throughout the United States passed anti-discrimination laws, designed to reinforce and protect gays' rights. These laws never created "special rights" or a uniquely protected status for homosexuals; they only guar-

anteed the same basic legal rights which all Americans take for granted.

The Reagan administration created a more repressive environment for lesbian and gay rights across the country, as aggressively homophobic rhetoric was encouraged at the highest levels of government. But it was only in the past four years, under former President George Bush, that right-wing think tanks like the Heritage Foundation took active aim to target the rights of homosexuals. In Oregon last year, statewide Ballot Measure 9 proposed the amendment of the state's constitution reclassifying homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." The measure would have forced all levels of state government to actively discourage homosexuality. This proposal was so controversial and extreme that few believed at first that it could be passed. Nevertheless, 43 percent of

all Oregon voters backed this hate-filled measure.

In Colorado, the conservatives pursued a more clever strategy of hate. Amendment 2, placed on the Colorado ballot last fall, prohibited any community or city in the state from passing local civil rights ordinances to protect gays' and lesbians' rights. Amendment 2 advocates claimed that they didn't want to suppress the rights of homosexuals, but only wanted to prohibit the definition of lesbians and gays as a protected class or minority group with "special rights." The language of Amendment 2 seemed "reasonable" compared to the Oregon initiative. An intense, grassroots mobilization was waged by the Right, which appealed to Christian groups by declaring that Bible condemns homosexuality as a sin. Despite over-

whelming opposition to the measure from liberal cities such as Denver, Aspen and Boulder, Amendment 2 passed with 53 percent of the popular vote. Many gay and liberal groups have responded by calling for a nationwide boycott of Colorado. On January 15, a Denver judge granted a temporary injunction blocking the implementation of Amendment 2, until a trial is held determining whether it is constitutional.

The successful homophobic language of Colorado's Amendment 2 is being used as the basis for new statewide measures in at least ten other states targeting gays and lesbians. Conservatives convinced thousands of voters that they were only voting against "special rights" for lesbians and gays, which really wasn't a statement favoring their discrimination.

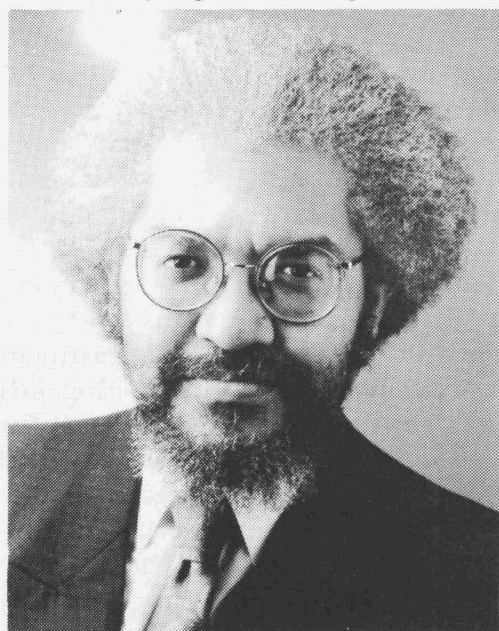
But what progressives should have argued in Colorado and elsewhere is that the far Right is trying to destroy the basis for all civil rights legislation, not just against gays and lesbians, but women, people of color, people with physical disabilities, and others. Gays and lesbians were

targeted first, only because homosexuals were perceived as most vulnerable politically. The argument that a "majority" of voters should have the right to take away a minority group's rights is not only false but dangerous. We must have the courage to state clearly to the public

that sometimes the majority can be wrong. A majority of white Southerners in the 1950s undoubtedly favored Jim Crow segregation laws, and they were wrong. The battle for full human rights for all is not just an issue concerning lesbians, gays, Latinos, African-Americans,

and other minorities, but everyone. Because if the rights of any single person in our society are in jeopardy, it is only a matter of time before our own rights will be destroyed.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of Political Science and History, University of Colorado, Boulder. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 250 newspapers and is broadcast by more than 60 radio stations throughout North America, Jamaica, Costa Rica, England, and India.



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Attorney General Christine Gregoire

Lands Commissioner Jennifer Belcher

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7:00 - 10:00 pm

IBEW Hall

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Program, Entertainment, Hors D'Oeuvres

Suggested Donation: \$20.00

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Washington State United For Justice in Our Fields: A Day of Action

Paul Ortiz

In Oregon, the Treeplanters and Farm Workers Union meets with 60 members of the Lesbian Community Project's "For Love and Justice: A Walk Against Hate" group last June. According to the union's June newsletter, "Marchers stayed overnight at our hall, following a very fruitful, two hour discussion of the commonalities of our struggles, attitudes that have historically divided us, and the need and opportunities to better support each other."

In Ohio and Michigan, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) is on the brink of ending one of the remaining vestiges of slavery-sharecropping.

And here in Washington, the United Farm Workers of Washington State's boycott of a subsidiary of a transnational corporation has built so much public support that even the C.E.O. of the largest winery in the state concedes that near-unanimous support exists for a union in his company's own vineyards.

The public is more than invited. We want to fill the streets with people who support full human rights for all workers regardless of skin color, language, and culture.

How are farm workers achieving these victories and building solidarity for social change? On March 13, members from these three farm worker unions will be in town to tell their stories during a bi-lingual organizing workshop to be held at United Churches on 10th and Capitol Way from 10:00 to 3:00 pm.

Sponsored in part by a grant by the Community Sustaining Fund and co-sponsored by St. Michael's Social Action Committee, speakers and participants will discuss movement building tactics. Representatives from the UFWWS, and support committees in Washington will discuss the economic boycott as a tool for social change focusing on the UFWWS boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle wines.

The experiences of farm workers have much to teach us about strategies for social change. Farm workers have been systematically excluded from social legislation. Therefore, they have relied on building grass-roots coalitions in order to improve their living and working conditions.

These lessons are especially critical in a time when political leaders are firmly opposed to economic democracy. R.F. Kampfer, reflecting on this, notes that "Mario Cuomo says we need to get back to the time when his immigrant father would 'kiss the hands and feet' of anybody who would give him a job digging ditches."

If we continue to rely on politicians such as Cuomo to "rebuild our infrastructure" we will indeed bequeath to our children the romantic world of Cuomo's father: a regime of unremitting child labor, low wages, and the highest workplace mortality rates in the world.

The alternative strategy for social change is to rely on building people-power movements that effectively challenge institutions such as corporations or monied interests that seek to drive wages down or transform our communities into economic enterprise zones (shades of the Westside Center struggle).

Commenting on the idea behind this strategy Baldemar Velasquez, founder of FLOC, and keynote

successful boycott of Campbell's Soup Co. that resulted in union recognition, better wages and benefits for thousands of farm workers in the Ohio and Michigan area.

Speakers at the "Washington State United For Justice in Our Fields" conference will also likely touch upon issues surrounding the North American Free Trade Agreement. In response to suggestions that labor, environmental, and social justice groups try to legislatively fine-tune NAFTA, Baldemar Velasquez states that "We view (NAFTA) as an organizing question, not a legislative one."

For instance, when Campbell's Soup Co. threatened to move tomato-picking jobs to Mexico in order to capitalize on cheaper wages, "(FLOC) made it very clear to Campbell that if they thought tomatoes in Mexico were cheap, then we would tell workers in Mexico to not work so cheaply. The next time we negotiated with Campbell, they didn't say a word about cheap paste from Mexico."

Another keynote speaker for the day, Helen Lee, acting director of The Evergreen State College Labor Education and Research Center, will discuss "organizing strategies that will look at the difference between community-based organizing and top-down legislative strategies for social change."

If you cannot attend this exciting event don't despair! The day of action kicks into high gear with a rally at Sylvester Park at 3:00 pm led by the United Farm Workers of Washington State, followed by a march led by members of the three unions, supporters and friends. The public is more than invited. We want to fill the streets with people who support full human rights for all workers regardless of skin color, language, and culture.

speaker for March 13th, notes that "Political lobbying uses up resources and personnel time in an area workers do not control and rarely win. FLOC considers it a dead-end response for labor in this country. Why waste time with it? Why not organize the industries and negotiate directly with the people who are going to make a difference?"

FLOC's strategy paid off in the 1980s when the union staged a suc-

Boycott: Chateau Ste Michelle and Other UST Wines

Zachary D. Lyons

Farm workers in the vineyards of the largest winery in the state of Washington, Chateau Ste Michelle (CSM), want a union, but CSM, and parent company UST, will not allow the workers to hold union elections, arguing that farm workers are not guaranteed the right to organize in Washington. The vineyard workers have therefore called for a boycott of all UST wines until the company grants the workers a fair union election.

According to Chateau Ste Michelle (CSM) spokesperson Mark Jennings, "The United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS) has called for a boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle because farm workers

do not have the right to collective bargaining in Washington state."

"This statement is misleading," charges Paul Ortiz of the Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee. "UFWWS called for a boycott of CSM wines because CSM refuses to recognize the rights of CSM vineyard workers to hold a fair and open union election - not because of Washington labor law. It is not surprising that Mr. Jennings repeatedly attempts to shift the focus of attention away from the actions of Chateau Ste Michelle to the state of labor law in Washington state."

"Furthermore, no law in this state prohibits farm workers from engaging in collective bargaining with their employers. In fact, farm workers in this state have engaged in collective bargaining before. Un-

The Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee hopes that churches, unions, and student groups across the state will bring their banners to march with us.

A fiesta-fundraiser will cap the days events with proceeds going to the United Farm Workers of Washington State. We are looking for more groups to become co-sponsors. For more information call 352-2153.

Solidarity!

Paul Ortiz is a member of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, and hosts "Pathways to Justice" Thursdays 1-3:30 pm on KAOS, Olympia 89.3 FM



fortunately, agribusiness firms, such as Chateau Ste Michelle, refuse to cede the absolute power they now exercise over farm workers."

Nevertheless, CSM's Jennings points out, "The union has also asked consumers to boycott all Stimson Lane wineries, including California's Conn Creek and Villa Mt. Eden. Ironically, the Washington farm workers union is asking consumers to boycott wines produced by California farm workers who have the right to collective bargaining. That right was guaranteed by the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1976."

"Jennings fails to note however," Ortiz rebuts, "that [the] California legislation came about as a result of ...the United Farm Worker grape boycott that convinced the state it could no longer exclude farm workers from labor law."

"Chateau Ste Michelle supports free and fair union elections," CSM's Jennings reiterates. "As evidence, our cellar workers have been represented by a union contract since 1941 and by the Teamsters since 1954."

(Continued next page)

*"If pizza is an art
Jo Mamas has the brushes"*

*"Losing myself in Olympia"
Sept. 21, 1987, CPJ*

Jo Mamas

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(Boycott, continued)

"We want to guarantee our farm workers the same protections and freedoms that are guaranteed to our cellar workers," says Jennings. "In 1935, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) guaranteed the right of collective bargaining for all workers, except farm workers. Regrettably, the right of Washington state farm workers to collective bargaining is not recognized by our state or federal government. We believe it's time to include farm labor in a NLRA-styled act."

"The fact that CSM's cellar workers

ers, or their employer.

"Without the guarantees of a law fashioned after the NLRA, our vineyard workers and all other farm workers in Washington state do not have these freedoms."

But the boycott's Paul Ortiz maintains, "Workers don't need to be affiliated with a union to strike. In the past several years in Washington, for instance, farm workers have waged hundreds of strikes without union representation. Squalid labor conditions, exposure to pesticides, low pay, etc., not union representation, caused these strikes."

Still, CSM's Jennings says the company has "additional concerns which must be addressed by legislation. First of all, the UFWWS argues that growers should not be able to hire replacement workers if a strike occurs during harvest. If farmers are unable to harvest their

Bill 1961 during the last session. That is, they refused to let the bill come to the house floor for a vote."

"The Dunlop Commission and the Washington State Public Employees Commission do not address the issue of union choice," surmises Chateau Ste Michelle's Mark Jennings. "Without legislation, other unions are uninterested in representing workers. These forums do not adequately address unique circumstances of agriculture."

"Unfortunately, it seems that the [UFWWS] does not support the passage of legislation," alleges Jennings. "The union's education director said on Wednesday, November 11, 1992, 'We believe in boycotts, not legislation.' Legislation guarantees the right to collective bargaining for all farm workers; boycotts do not."

"This [statement] is contradicted by Jennings [in a] later statement

of CSM," asserts Ortiz. "A majority of CSM farm workers have already indicated that they want to be represented by UFWWS. And 33 current and former farm workers have filed a lawsuit against CSM for suppressing the freedom of CSM vineyard workers to organize and vote for the union of their choice." In fact, UST settled the lawsuit out of court in November of 1992, and as part of the settlement, according to attorneys for the farm workers, UST's Washington wineries acknowledged the workers rights to organize.

Boycott organizers are asking consumers to boycott all UST wines, which include Chateau Ste Michelle, Columbia Crest, Farron Ridge, VM Whidby, Conn Creek, and Villa Mt Eden. They are also boycotting the Chateau Ste Michelle concert series.

For more information, or to express your concerns, you may contact UFWWS, the Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee, UST and Chateau Ste Michelle as follows:

UFWWS
Post Office Box 899
Granger, WA 98932
509-854-2161

Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee
c/o Sheila Payne
1411 Brawne NE
Olympia, WA 98506

UST
100 Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830

Allen Shoup, Pres.
Chateau Ste Michelle
One Stimson Lane
Woodinville, WA 98072
206-488-1133

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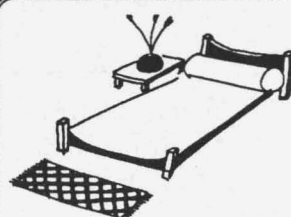
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Support Farm Workers' Rights

are unionized only makes CSM's disregard for the vineyard worker's pleas for a union election more pernicious. Why don't the Chicano vineyard workers at Chateau Ste Michelle enjoy the same rights as other CSM workers? Why does CSM refuse to pay overtime wages to vineyard workers, who toil in excess of 90 hours a week during peak seasons?" the Farm Worker Justice Committee's Paul Ortiz queries. "Does CSM honestly expect people to believe that they lack the legal fire power to deal with a small farm workers union, when... they already deal with the gigantic Teamsters Union?"

"For several years, we have lobbied Washington state legislators to include farm workers under the NLRA and adopt that as state law," CSM's Jennings states. "Once such legislation is passed, our workers will have the right to choose *whether or not* a union represents them. They will also have the right to choose *which* union represents them. And they will have the right to do this *without* harassment from union organizers, fellow work-

ers, or their employer. crop, then they have lost their source of income for the year (and perhaps even the farm) and so have their workers. Everybody loses."

"This reasonable sounding argument does not square with reality in Washington state," contends Ortiz, "where farmers, with the support of various grower's associations, have often plowed over their crops rather than negotiate with farm worker organizing committees."

Mr. Ortiz offers three channels through which he, and other boycott supporters, believe both workers' and the company's concerns might be addressed.

"The Olympia Boycott Committee endorses the Washington Association of Churches plan to end the dispute: the formation of an independent commission patterned after the Dunlop Commission which brought to a successful ending a similar labor dispute between the Farm Worker's Organizing Committee and Campbell Soup in the state of Ohio," Ortiz explains. "Another alternative proposed by the UFWWS is to utilize the Washington State Public Employees Commission 'which has the authority to supervise [union] elections and establish labor relations in the public sector...'"

"The third alternative is one that the UFWWS and other farm workers have worked on through the legislature: state legislation that would protect both farm workers and employers in the election and bargaining process," Ortiz continues. "UFWWS representatives and farm workers have spoken at legislative hearings on this bill but UST, which supposedly endorses such legislation, has been mysteriously absent during the hearings. The legislature, which is sadly dominated by agribusiness tabled House

about House Bill 1961, that UFWWS representatives and supporters testified on behalf of. Where was CSM during the hearings on HB 1961?" asks the boycott's Ortiz.

"I... think that CSM and other agribusiness firms in Washington are... skeptical of the Dunlop Commission because it successfully negotiates and arbitrates union contracts for over 6,000 farm workers in the Ohio and Michigan areas," Ortiz continues. "The rights that farm workers and their families enjoy as members the Farm Labor Organizing Committee in Ohio must terrify agribusiness firms in Washington state who seek total control over Washington farm workers."

"Interestingly, the Dunlop Commission, like the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, came about as a result of farm workers' boycott of agribusiness firms," reminds Ortiz.

"We believe that the UFWWS seeks an uncompetitive union environment," concludes CSM's Jennings. "Presently, in Washington state, no farm workers are represented by a labor contract. Moreover, no other labor union is trying to organize farm labor in this state. We have been told by other labor unions that once legislation passes, they would be interested in representing Washington state farm workers."

"[This] is another ludicrous claim

Confessions of an Apolitical Pundit

Less Home for the Homeless?

Greg Hohnholt

Author's note: This article was written in late December, and revised for the February issue of WiP. Time-related remarks remain cued to late December.

After my first few nights as a volunteer at the First Baptist Church's homeless ministry, the routine has become familiar. At about 8:30 or so, my partner enlists a couple of our 'guests' for the evening from the group of men waiting outside to help us with getting the mattresses and the plastic garbage bags filled with each man's bedding into the main hallway. We let the rest of the men in at about a quarter to nine, and within five or ten minutes, everyone who's slept here recently has their allotment of sheets and blankets while I tend to handing out supplies to new arrivals. Most of the guys are familiar with the procedure, though, having slept here many times in the past six weeks since the shelter opened, and they move hurriedly to stake out their small patch of territory on the church floor. After twenty minutes or so, the animated activity of the hallway winds down, as five or six men settle into reading in the brightly lit kitchen while the rest either get ready to sleep or step outside for their last smoke of the day.

Most of the men started coming to the Church instead of the Salvation Army because of this unconventional informality we've tried to maintain. Unlike 'Sally's', as the Army is known on the street, our shelter doesn't require the men to see a caseworker, nor punish them with "Three Day Denials" for being intoxicated. "We don't try to ram the Bible down their throats", as a First Baptist congregation member I met at Bread & Roses put it. Still, as admirable as this Church's decision to make its generosity unconditional was, instituting policy now veers on becoming a necessity for a number of reasons.

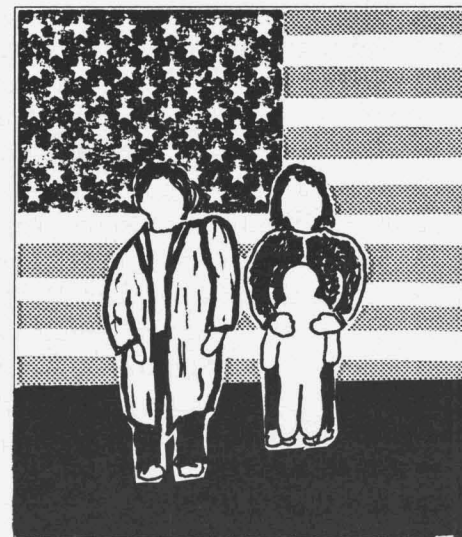
Little breaches in our ad hoc shelter's unwritten social contract have been becoming more common. Sneaking in the kitchen to make sandwiches, smoking in the bathrooms, leaving butts in the back rooms, pilfering pizzas from the freezer in the middle of the night, arriving at the shelter past 10:00, or any one of a number of similar transgressions all falling under the nebulous category of "unacceptable behavior" have made the weekly volunteer meetings I attend exercises in moral philosophy.

The problem we face is: Any new regulation adopted as law must ap-

ply to all, and invalidates the trust lent to those who have chosen to honor this trust without sanction. On one hand, we realize that instituting further restrictions would only serve to take away the "homeyness" of our shelter, but on the other hand, we're getting peeved over having to deal with guys coming in late drunk, or acting irresponsible in general. We would rather not

not yet afford his own apartment. Instead of being distinguished by what distinct qualities they have, the homeless are grouped by the one condition they lack, and this doesn't exactly lend itself to sustaining group unity. (When you also figure in the fact that the men are, by necessity, nomadic, it's more readily understandable why the social cohesiveness they display is tentative at best.)

The second reason follows from the first. Not having a culturally-approved way of distinguishing themselves (ordinarily the domain of the world of work), these men approach the problem of trying to live a dignified, dependent existence in very dissimilar ways. Some



too much of a temptation to resist.

Regardless of individual moral standards, this defensive individualism that characterizes the homeless tends to keep them fragmented and wary. With little to bring the men together but their dependency, the "it's-every-man-for-himself" attitude becomes an everyday fact of the life they lead, even if each man genuinely feels this attitude to be "wrong" somehow.

Whether or not this justifies their occasional moral lapses is too complex of a question for me to address adequately, and it's unlikely I ever could unless I experienced being homeless. The class differences between those with homes to live in and those with shelters to go to have been widened by the Reagan legacy of privatization, and cannot be breached by a well-meaning, but ultimately gratuitous posture on policy. The homeless issue transcends roofs and walls, and must address the political issue of hope in its fundamentally democratic form: equal economic opportunity for all.

Postscript: Since this article was written three weeks ago, the back rooms of the Church have been closed off, a lock has been installed on the kitchen door, the volunteers' nightly journal is now placed under lock and key, and the refrigerator has been placed on "off limits" status.

The homeless issue transcends roofs and walls, and must address the political issue of hope in its fundamentally democratic form: equal economic opportunity for all.

take a hard line approach like the Salvation Army, but do we have much choice? In my opinion, two observations about the homeless are worth considering before evaluating their character as a group with the intent of making group policy.

First of all, these men are all distinct individuals, but opportunities for expressing these distinctions are few. They are both figuratively and literally lumped under the economic classification of "homeless", and the individual differences between them are obscured. It becomes more difficult to separate, for example, the chronic alcoholic who will likely never work again from the unfortunate "unskilled laborer" who has merely been laid off, or the ex-con with an "attitude" from the high school drop out who is just trying to get away from his parents but can-

read religiously, several others put an emphasis on personal grooming or clothing, a few play chess, while still others merely strike a defiant, world-weary posture that borders on aloofness. I suspect that the noncompliant men we are having problems with have become cynical about affording themselves the luxury of being human. Prudent self-denial and self-regulated behavior appears to them a sucker's game that offers no reward, and these men end up lumping the understated authority of the First Baptist Church with all the other authorities that treat the homeless person as a number or a "problem" that needs correcting. The finer shades of their humanity become dulled, and "unacceptable behavior" manifests itself when the opportunity for a fleeting taste of false freedom becomes

Waiting

Sonya Bedillion

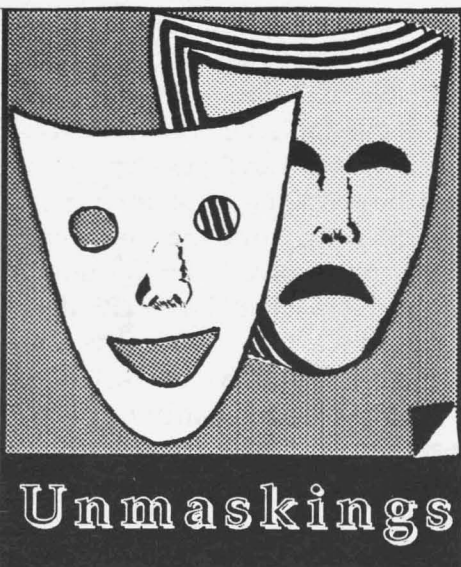
Waiting and waiting for the next bus
going South

James as I came to call him
sneaks up on me
saying that he doesn't mind people
he smells of a mixture
of alcohol and sweat
not day old sweat
not even week-old or month-old
sweat that year after
years becomes stronger
as desire for a better life dies
he sings of God
it amuses me
but it saves him from a suicide
dated Christmas Eve 1984
he stops singing to gulp his
alcohol
dressed up in a plain paper bag
the alcohol results of trading
in food stamps for cold cash
he asks me to judge him
but I refuse
knowing he only eats to keep
himself moving.
we move on to philosophy

his and mine.

"you have to take the cards life deals to you."

I ask if his fate is to be homeless
while your neighbor is
safe and sound in his house
that's not the point says James
I don't argue but I still wonder
James believes in Jesus
that he was a simple man who did good things
for ordinary people.
we could use someone like that today
couldn't we?
James smiles and wants to believe
that there is a place for him.
My bus is here
and I go to leave
James wants to wait and drink,
drink and wait.
understandingly, I leave
forgetting my umbrella
James hands it to me,
a smile exchanged as our hands touch
in the end
all I can say
is take care of yourself
it is over and it is not enough



Ron Jacobs

This piece is not written to lessen the importance of the recent victories by women within the system, but to raise some questions regarding the mainstream media's coverage of their campaigns. Oh yeah,

A Woman's Place is in the System

most media coverage of the recent election and its year of the woman" slant was the presumption that women were running for office in greater numbers than ever before because domestic policy issues were what was important to voters. Besides the reality that gender does not necessarily make for progressive politics and, even if half of all candidates were women, it would still take more than a century for Congress to be half women" (*Lies of Our Times* 10/92) this media generated half-truth assumes that domestic issues are separate from foreign policy and trade and, consequently, less important. Another aspect of the media's presumption, and perhaps the most irritating, is the impression conveyed that women's

and peace important to women? It is their faces we see most in the lines of refugees. Because of this it could be safely argued that they, along with their children, have the most to gain from a policy which refuses to accept war as a reasonable solution. A policy, which, in turn, would see sharing of resources more important than profiteering from them. But, the thinking goes, unless women accept the "real world's" definition that war is a legitimate means of resolving problems of power and control between nations (a la Maggie Thatcher or Golda Meir), their opinions are just so much idealistic nonsense.

Likewise, the globalization of the economy is truly women's domain. Like all profit based economies, the global economy depends on the hierarchization of gender and race to keep wages low. In a less obvious, but certainly more brutal way than sweatshop work and conditions, the effects of rapid economic globalization are felt daily by women in the new colonies of multinational capital. According to a recent article in the magazine *Asia Week*, wife beating and other forms of domestic abuse are experiencing an unprecedented increase in the

newest sweatshop countries of Malaysia, Philippines, and Singapore, primarily among the newly urbanized cheap labor force. One can draw other conclusions, but this seems to fit the dynamic seen in other societies when survival in a hyper-capitalist economy take precedence over the rest of life. In virtually every similar situation, anti-social behavior increases.

So called women's issues of health, education, food, and shelter are not just women's issues. They are human issues. The end of world poverty is much more important to the future of humanity than the traditionally "important" issues of war and power. It will prove interesting if we remember this and act accordingly over the rest of the decade. After all, the new U.S. government was elected on such a premise. As a species we cannot afford to live without a vision that equalizes power, instead of one that makes fighting for it an art form.

If we were to deal with so-called women's issues as seriously as the "real world" deals with war and trade, peace with justice would surely be a product of our success. War, and continued inequalities, on the other hand, are a sure symptom of our failure.

Another aspect of the media's presumption, and perhaps the most irritating, is the impression conveyed that women's opinions and knowledge of international issues are unimportant and quite limited.

here in Vermont, the highest ranking woman elected was a Republican.

Something that bugged me about

opinions and knowledge of international issues are unimportant and quite limited.

Well, excuse me, but aren't war

Farewell to the Judge: Thurgood Marshall, 1908-1993

Jerome Johnson

I was at work when I heard that Thurgood had passed away. My mother called and told me as did a friend a short time later.

I put the phone down and went back to work but in a thoughtful mood. Although I had never met Justice Marshall, he had a major impact on my life and like millions of others, I admired and was grateful to him. Even prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, Thurgood dedicated his life to fighting racism and other forms of oppression; his victory in the Brown case was just the most famous example. For me the ruling had a personal meaning -- without it, I might have been unable to attend school in Olympia in 1966. As it was, I was the first black child to integrate Garfield Elementary in the fall of that year. Because of Thurgood, I and millions of other children had a chance for a decent education.

When Lyndon Johnson named Thurgood to the Supreme Court in 1967, I was too young to really grasp just what it meant. I knew that my mother and aunt were deliriously happy as a black had for the first time in U.S. history been given such powers for life, and I was even more proud of being black (which wasn't always easy for me those days). I didn't know then that LBJ hadn't done it out of the pure goodness of

his heart; he had problems in this country and appointing Thurgood to the Court solved several at once. Was Thurgood a token? Never. He kept taking risks, educating people, fighting for freedom and justice and decency on an institutional level. And he did it with brains and guts and style.

The corporate whitebread media

cause Thurgood believed in everyone's freedom and civil rights. That is why he supported Roe v. Wade, affirmative action, the ban on capital punishment and other progressive issues. Sometimes he stood alone and sometimes others stood with him, but Thurgood Marshall was always standing up for us -- the poor, colored, disabled,

Thank you, Thurgood...Rest well and in peace, my friend.

is portraying Thurgood as civil rights specialist, and doubtless Shelby Steele and his ilk will point to Thurgood and say, "See? Just work hard, and study and you'll be like him." Yes, Thurgood worked and studied his ass off, but he was also very lucky and people helped him. Steele and others forget this, but Thurgood never did. It's a pity that their focus is so much on his civil rights work for black people, be-

lesbian/gay, women and children. He spoke for us, protected us, helped us even after some of us could stand up for ourselves.

I spoke with a young woman last night. When I mentioned Thurgood's passing she said, "Oh yes, he was one of the civil rights guys, wasn't he? One of the big ones? It's too bad." I smiled and said yes he was, and it is too bad. And when others ask me about Thurgood I will



smile again and tell them about him, and suggest reading his book and the recent biography on him. I will smile because Thurgood Marshall was a great and decent person who spent his life helping to make people's lives better, with much success.

Thank you, Thurgood. You said you did the best you could with what you had, and you accomplished truly great things. Rest well and in peace, my friend.

Jerome Johnson is the host of *Up Front*, Wednesdays 1 pm on KAOS.

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Tax Revision

National and State Imperatives for Clinton and Lowry

Vic Overstreet

It will be interesting to observe how Governor Lowry and the state legislators go about prioritizing the multitude of critical issues they must face in this legislative session. Will it be the onerous task of balancing the budget and the methodology pursued in accomplishing this task? Will it be to develop a solid health care program for all of our citizens? Could it be to give new direction to our system of public education or will it be to zero in on providing assistance to unemployed loggers and their families or will it be some other facet of our economy which the writer has chosen not to mention as those issues which are perceived as the most critical.

An important philosophical question which needs to be confronted is one which is invariably mentioned by economists and political leaders, "Is economic growth the ultimate and key issue in promoting jobs and economic health within our cities, counties, states, and national economies?" If so, based upon what social and economic criteria are we really serious about not becoming another Los Angeles, Chicago or like any of a dozen other large cities and areas around the nation.

Based upon my readings and observations of social and economic theories pursued by both major political parties during the past several decades, it appears that neither party has been able to devise a sound tax and economic plan which removes our nation from "boom and bust" periods of social and economic upheavals. In my advancing years, I have come to the conclusion that there must be something radically wrong within the system and the way it functions. If our highly trained economists and elected political leaders have been unable to

tune and bring the system under control, where do we turn for meaningful answers?

Ross Perot seems to think that we need to look to a composite of our lay citizens who are upset about the way the system works and are striking out for CHANGE. Can he and will he and his group come up with some meaningful answers. The answer is a positive "yes."

President Clinton is to be commended for the ways in which he has been utilizing a wide cross-section of highly trained and knowledgeable citizens in harnessing ideas for his administration. However hopeful this writer is that both President Clinton and Governor Lowry will come up with some outstanding solutions to many of our problems, the fact remains he has some serious doubt about either leader having the courage to tap into the most cancerous problem of all --

TAX REVISION AT BOTH THE NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS. Without confronting these two major problems, how do we finance the urgent need of both the state and

like you and millions of other Washington State citizens want some meaningful solution to a whole host of urgent problems. The question is, "Can we solve them with our present tax structure?"

nation?

I, like you and millions of other Washington State citizens want some meaningful solution to a whole host of urgent problems. The question is, "Can we solve them with our present tax structure?" Are you willing to contribute the needed tax dollars under our present system? Only you can answer that question but history tells us that such a jump

in faith is highly unlikely.

My sincere belief is that real "tax revision" is still the most basic and fundamental issue which must be faced by the Governor, legislators and the people of this state if we are, indeed, going to move ahead to confront and resolve the multitude of problems to which I have alluded.

My plea to Governor Lowry simply is this, you have characterized yourself as one who can bring people together. Lay the ground work so that we can replace our current property tax with a "Land-Value-Rent-

Open Letter to Senator Nita Rinehart, Chair Senate Ways & Means Committee Room and Representative Gary F. Locke, Chair House Appropriations Committee

Eroding Our Tax Base

Marvin Saillard

Dear Sen. Rinehart and Rep. Locke;

The economy is our tax base. Primarily, we tax that part of our economy which is made up of all the privately-created values of labor and capital. Any tax on this part of our economy is a dis-incentive tax which eats away at the base of our economy. These taxes make it more expensive to do business, discourage production, reduce the supply of goods, increase prices, raise the cost of living, and reduce the number of jobs in the economy. Dis-

incentive taxes erode the economy. This is unforgivable economic cannibalism because **there is one incentive tax** which does not increase prices, and which boosts production by encouraging better use of

land. This creates a demand for labor and capital.

This **incentive tax** is a tax on land-values. The closer this tax comes to collecting the full market rental-value of land as public revenue to replace all revenue from dis-incentive taxation, the nearer it comes to creating full employment. Collect-

other people permission to use their land. The community will benefit from collecting the community-created rental-value of land as public revenue to replace revenue from dis-incentive taxation. And the landowner will only be able to make an earned income from his own productive use of his land.

The economy is our tax base. Primarily, we tax that part of our economy which is made up of all the privately-created values of labor and capital.

ing the rental-value of land as public revenue fully discourages land speculation and does away with land-price inflation. Landowners will have the incentive to use their land efficiently in order to benefit themselves and the community with profitable businesses and full employment.

Landowners will no longer be able to collect an unearned income by charging land-rent for giving

Landowners will no longer have **unearned income from land-rent** with which to buy and monopolize capital. Under full employment, jobs competing for workers will force up wages and interest. This will allow labor to save wages, and invest the savings in capital to increase their income and to raise the productivity of their labor. Land-value taxation will expand the tax base while expanding the economy because a tax on land-values cannot reduce the supply of land in order to increase the price of land.

As population grows, the rental-value of land will grow to provide the public revenue needed to provide the public infrastructure and public services required by the growth. People working together in cooperation and in specialization of

(Continued next page)



Vic Overstreet is a founding member of the Washington State Georgist Association, a tax oriented organization.



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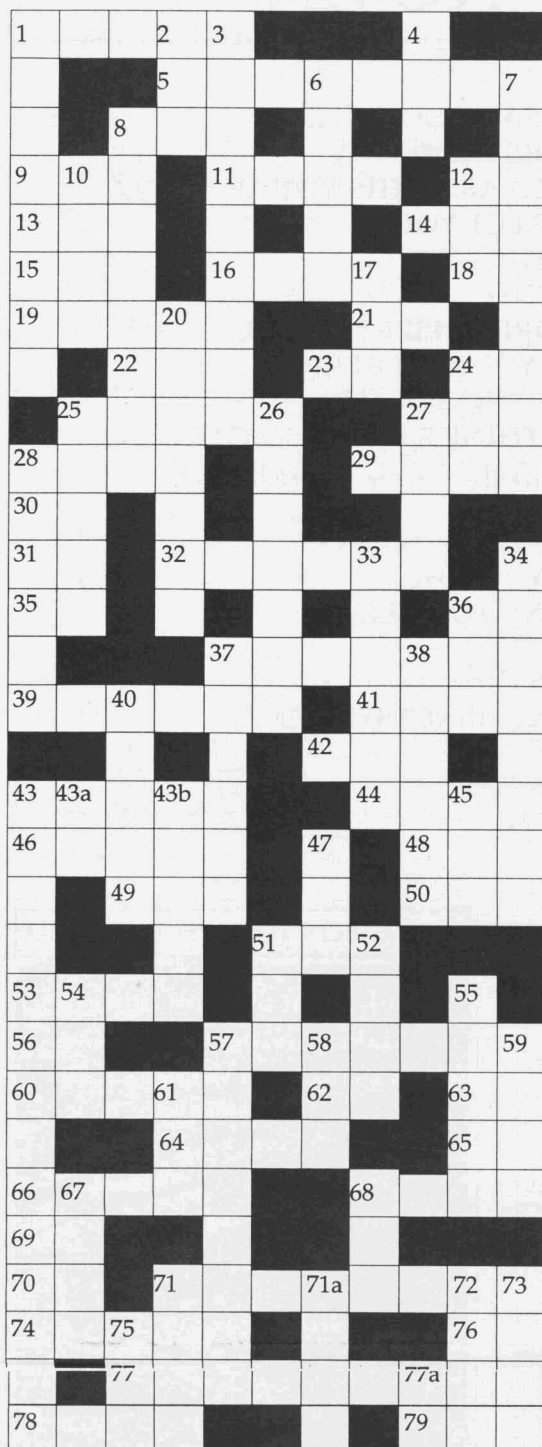
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Funky WIP Crossword Puzzle



Solution next month

(Tax, continued)

labor within a community creates a phenomenon in which labor and capital in some locations in the community can produce more than the same amount of labor and capital in other locations. This surplus of production over what can be produced at the least productive location in the community is called the rental-value of land. This is a community-created value, which should be collected for the community as public revenue to finance all the functions and services of the community government.

Land and capital cannot produce anything without access to land. Land is valuable because no one can live without access to land. Everyone in the community needs land, therefore, the presence and activity and taxes of everyone in the community makes the land valuable. Consequently, this community-created value of land should be collected as public revenue. This requires an amendment of the State Constitution to allow a two rate property tax.

Marvin Saillard is a member of the Washington State Georgist Association. Hamlet Hilpert, President 995 State Hwy 507 Centralia, WA 98531 We are a chapter of Common Ground - USA. John Burger, Exec. Adm., 1475 Terraceview Lane N Plymouth, MN 55447-2407

Across

1. Ensign Ro's homeworld
5. Civil Rights activist
8. Poetess Romoff
9. Neither, ____
11. Director Coward
12. Andrew Jackson, init.
13. Man's name
14. Uncle, in Mexico
15. A place for tools
16. South African freedom fighter
18. You, in Germany
19. "____ the Dragon"
21. "____ Better Blues"
22. Strong brew
23. Yes, in Russia
24. Minnesota, abbrev.
25. Mountain range
27. Stooge
28. Songster Marvin
29. Israeli Warrior
30. "Truth ____ Consequences"
31. St.-____, France
32. Popular food brand
35. David Niven, init.
36. "____ Law"
37. Health expert
39. Mr. Mandela
41. Man's name
42. ____ DuBois
43. Evergreen teacher Roy
44. "Rendezvous with ____"
46. "____ Limits"
48. None
49. Rock group
50. Korean Air Lines, init.
51. Healthy, in England
53. ____-bitty?
56. "Dr. ____"
57. Scandinavian nation
60. Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a Leatherneck
62. Journalist Cummings

63. Huh?
64. Woman's name
65. Sha Na ____
66. Indigenous people
68. Scheme
69. Man's name
70. ni...neque (Latin), init.
71. Labor organizer
74. Songster, dancer, Sammy Jr.
76. Same as 62 across
77. Not here
78. Learning method
79. ____-de-sac

Down

1. African-American scientist
2. Sisko's security officer
3. Actor Richard
4. Harold, for short
6. "The ____ Train Robbery"
7. Civil rights activist, Truth
8. French province
10. Actor Ken
12. To help
17. Actress Thurman
20. Seniors
24. Me, in France
25. Man's name
26. Woman's name
27. Baseball team
28. "The Man with the ____ Gun"
33. Seattle street
34. African-American jurist
36. Him, in France
37. Teeth
38. "Newlywed Game" host
43. Operation ____, the bombing of N. Vietnam (2 wds.)
- 43a. KAOS Rapper Wayne
- 43b. Poor
45. Missing in Action, abbrev.
47. Kimono
51. Is high at country club
52. North Americans say it is money
55. The Metrons will provide

one if needed

57. Same as 5 Across
58. Nat'l Education Assoc. (init.)
59. ____ Noonian Singh
61. Woman's bane
67. Woman's name
68. Palestine Liberation Organization, init.
71. Bother
- 71a. Beginning
72. 25 Across extends here
73. Body part
75. Veterinarian
- 77a. European Community, init.

Last month's solution



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Propinquity in the Snow

by Carol Simila-Dickinson

pro pin qui ty n 1:kinship; 2: nearness in place or time

I made my way along the winding street, the tire tracks of the first morning commuters just starting to fill back in. It was a fluffy, mid-winter snow, and I marvelled at the beauty of the flakes as they twirled earthward, then disappeared into the intricate white mosaic at my feet.

Suddenly, an unexpected, minute sign of life amidst the white mass. A mosquito, painfully, flake by frigid flake, making its way across the street. Where had it come from, this pitiful creature? I watched its eyelash legs, and wondered how they could carry anything, even this emaciated insect, across the snow.

There it was, so distinct on the pure white background, so deliciously vulnerable. For a moment, I considered placing my snow-packed boot squarely on its back. After all, hadn't it (or its cronies) tortured us all summer long? Hadn't they ruined enough cook-outs, caused my little one enough miserable, sleepless nights?

Maybe I really *should* put it out of its misery. Wouldn't it be an act of mercy? Where was the poor fool headed, anyway? Even if it made it to the other side of the street, what then? There were no skimpily-clad bodies lounging over there, on the

snowy embankment, for it to feed upon. Whatever its goal, its motivation, I could not begin to imagine. This sadly misplaced mosquito surely would come to no good end.

But as I watched, I felt a strange kinship with the creature. The force that compelled it to struggle onward was a strong one, however incomprehensible to me. Or, maybe it was simply the struggle to survive that drove it on. I understand that force. Maybe it was the belief that something better lay beyond, that anything is possible. I, too, cling to that belief.

It occurred to me that, if this mosquito survived, a hardy new race of mosquitoes might ensue, a potential threat to humanity. But hasn't humanity inflicted the worst dangers upon itself? Does any other species grant itself the "right" to judge the value of a species' existence?

The wind and snow gusted in my face, and I hurried on home. The thought of the frost-bitten mosquito, near death in its snowbound sojourn, followed me to my hearth. Had it enjoyed its brief life? Was it recalling the good times, or engrossed in the immediacy of survival? Would we meet again someday, at a picnic or on a walk? Would it recognize me, its kindred spirit, and remember? Would it sense my vulnerability, spare me, and fly on home?

NAFTA Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 6, 10 am - 12pm, Olympia NAFTA/GATT Justice Committee Meeting. All are welcome. Place to be announced. 786-8950.

Tuesday, February 9, 1:30 pm NAFTA/GATT Luncheon Discussion Quinault Auditorium, Panorama City. Special Guests Dan Leahy and Beth Burrows. Panorama City Democratic Study Group 438-5050.

Saturday, February 13, 1 pm "kNOw NAFTA" Forum at the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition 4th Annual Community Meeting, First Christian Church (7th and Franklin.) Contact 459-5499.

Friday, February 26th, 7pm - Midnight, No NAFTA! Dance and Auction Fundraising Extravaganza. IBEW Hall, Seattle. \$5 (or more) gets you in the door. Cake walk, pie throwing, dancing, games and lots of fun! (206) 871-7064. Carpooling 786-8950.

Saturday, February 27th, 11am - 1pm, "Strikes for Justice" Bowling Pledge Fundraiser, Westside Lanes, Olympia. For pledge sheets call 786-8950.

To get involved or for further details on the calendar of events contact: **The Olympia NAFTA/GATT Justice Committee, P.O. Box 10023, Olympia, WA. 98502** or call Kelley Janes at 786-8950. Videos, literature and speakers are available.

MOVING ON

THERE COMES A TIME TO SAY GOOD BYE
I CAN'T SAY THAT I UNDERSTAND WHY
BUT YOU KNOW IN YOUR HEART, THIS YOU MUST DO
IF NOTHING ELSE TO PROTECT YOU
DON'T LOOK AT THIS AS THE END
I TELL YOU THIS AS A FRIEND
THERES A WHOLE LOT MORE IN LIFE FOR YOU TO SEE
BUT FIRST YOU MUST SET YOUR SELF FREE
LEARN TO LOVE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE
AND DON'T LET THE BAD THINGS LEAVE A SCAR
YES YOU WILL HAVE ALOT THAT YOU REGRET
BUT THEN NO ONE IS PERFECT
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY
TAKE THINGS DAY BY DAY
WHEN YOU NEED SOME ONE TO TALK TO
I WILL BE THERE FOR YOU
I LOVE YOU AS A FRIEND
AND THIS COMES FROM MY HEART WITHIN.

CATHY DURRETT

The Spar Thursday Past Noon

fists in the air
we march
to stop the hate
and carry the love

eyes across rooms
a spark leaps
zinging from heart to heart
and we are opened

sitting together at round tables
looking away
looking away
words pouring out
passion in speech
tongues shaping old treasures
and new stories
messages slid hand to hand
secrets revealed

I give myself away and away and away
shakes, blushes, glances
poems scrawled open like my heart
drawn to you
moon moth to flame
rising in love, falling in love
I hear your name all night

What is this?
this man to woman
woman to man
across cultures, oceans, galaxies swirling in
the dark
I do not know your language
I without words, within love
simply and completely wrenched open
pulled apart
and plunged deep

we meet, yet you are already gone
one who follows the crooked finger
the question, the need, the hunger
I stand shoulder to shoulder
and you melt away, perhaps never here

I am not your student
I am not your mother
I do not need you
I do not claim you
this game is one I cannot play
these steps I cannot dance
when we march, it is together
sister brother
wished for lover
equal, strong, aware, awake
warriors for the earth
with brave hearts and open throats

the sandwich grows cold in my mouth
our appointment has come and gone
no phone call, no concern, no
acknowledgement that I am a person
a someone, a woman worthy of simple
respect

my hand remains open, as does my heart
shoulder to shoulder, all of us are needed to
build this world
there is much to do

and the candles I brought for you
I will burn for myself

Sarah Light

SONG FOR JOSEPH WILFRED

Looking at this self portrait
taken in the olympics
i have to wonder
why i chose to laugh

Would i have laughed
if i thought about destruction
in this forest

Would i have laughed
if war
greed
murder
rape
had entered
my thoughts that morning

Would i have laughed
if i began to wonder
of my existence on mother earth
and my ultimate journey home

Would i have laughed
if i could have foreseen
that in two months time
your spirit would be
leaving us

G.W. Galbreath

WIP Schedule

WIP Article submission
deadline is Wednesday
February 17

Also on that day, there will be a
meeting at SPEECH at 7 pm.
SPEECH is 218 Fourth Ave.
Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting
Tuesday, February 23
at 7pm at the Olympia
Timberland Library

Policy Meeting

Tuesday Feb 2 and March 2
@ 7pm. Call 357-4705 for place.

The Clouds Return

To welcome the clouds back
After days of Winter cold,
They restore grayness and warmth
Smooth air of richness and moister,
Relieving the dryness of sharply cracked lips and cuticles,
I didn't think I would notice
But tonight I welcome the clouds return.

-Birch Shapiro

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